

Message Text

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US MISSION GENEVA 459

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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PARIS FOR UNESCO; ROME FOR FODAG, VIENNA FOR IAEA, UNIDO

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SUBJ: CERP 008 AN EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE

REF: (A) AIDTO A-2507. (B) SEOUL 4035. (C) SEOUL 8654 10/28/76

THE OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, FOCUSED IN PREVIOUS REPORTS ON THE UNDP, REMAINS AS DESCRIBED IN REF B. IN ESSENCE, THE UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CLEARLY RESPONDS TO THE PRIORITIES OF THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT IN THE FIELDS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND TENDS TO DEEMPHASIZE PROJECTS WHICH ARE DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH RURAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT WHICH THE ROKG HAS UNDERTAKEN VERY SUCCESSFULLY BY OTHER MEANS. WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS, REF B DEALS WITH THE ENTIRE RANGE OF UN ACTIVITIES AND COMMENTS ARE ALSO DIRECTED AT PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY OTHER UN AGENCIES INCLUDING UNESCO, FAO, ILO, AND UNIDO. SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS ON UNICEF AND WHO WILL

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BE INCLUDED IN THIS REPORT. END SUMMARY

1. AS STATED IN REF. B, THE UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS KEYED TO THE KOREAN FOURTH FIVE YEAR PLAN (FFYP). THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS PLAN ARE: (1) GROWTH WITH ENHANCED SELF-SUFFICIENCY EMPHASIZING HEAVY AND CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES; (2) EQUITY AND SOCIAL

DEVELOPMENT BY PROMOTION OF LABOR AND TECHNOLOGY INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES; AND (3) EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY WITH INNOVATION IN THE USE OF BOTH FOREIGN AND INDIGENOUS TECHNOLOGIES.

2. WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK, THE UN DISTRIBUTES ITS ASSISTANCE TO A NUMBER OF AREAS INCLUDING INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH, AND MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT. INDEED UNDP ASSISTANCE, AS WELL AS THAT OF OTHER UN AGENCIES IS HEAVILY CONCENTRATED IN THE AREAS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENHANCING THE ROLE OF KOREAN INDUSTRY IN WORLD MARKETS. FURTHERMORE, UN SUPPORT OF RESEARCH INSTITUTES AND SKILLED MANPOWER TRAINING PROGRAMS IS INVARIABLY DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE TECHNIQUES AND EFFICIENCY OF KOREAN COMMERCE AND TRADE.

3. WHILE THIS ORIENTATION DOES INDEED FOLLOW KOREAN PRIORITIES FOR FOREIGN TECHNICAL AID, IT DEEMPHASIZES PROGRAMS WHICH ARE CONCERNED WITH RURAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT EVEN THOUGH NEEDS IN THESE SECTORS CAN BE AMPLY DEMONSTRATED. IT IS QUESTIONABLE HOW MUCH MORE TECHNICAL HELP THE ROKG NEEDS IN WHAT HAS BEEN A VERY SUCCESSFUL HIGH PRIORITY, CONTINUING EFFORT OF ITS OWN. THUS, WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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FEW EXCEPTIONS, THIS SECTORAL CONCERNATION OF UN ASSISTANCE OVERLOOKS AID'S CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE TO FOCUS DEVELOPMENT AID IN PROJECTS WHICH IMPACT DIRECTLY ON FOOD PRODUCTION, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, AND EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES. UNICEF'S SPONSORSHIP OF THE APPLIED NUTRITION PROGRAM, UNICEF AND WHO'S SUPPORT FOR PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PROJECTS AND WFP'S SUPPORT OF RURAL AGRICULTURAL SCHEMES THROUGH SUPPORT OF LOCAL LABOR HAVE BEEN NOTABLE EXCEPTIONS IN THIS REGARD.

4. THE UN PROPORTION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO KOREA SINCE 1951 HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIAL, TOTALING ALMOST 32PCT OF ALL SUCH ASSISTANCE FROM EXTERNAL SOURCES. THIS ASSISTANCE REACHED \$3.5 MILLION OR 35.5PCT IN 1976. ALTHOUGH THESE FIGURES REFLECT THE CRITICAL ROLE PLAYED BY THE UN IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF KOREA, THEY DO NOT SHOW THAT ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN HEAVILY CONCENTRATED IN A FEW SECTORS.

5. REFER REF. B, PARAS 5, 8, AND 10 FOR DISCUSSION OF PROJECT SELECTION AND CONCENTRATION OF ASSISTANCE

IN FIELDS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. NOTE THAT UNDP LINKAGE WITH MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IS FUNNEL THROUGH WHICH ROKG REQUESTS PASS TO ALL UN AGENCIES OPERATING IN KOREA.

6. PARA 11 OF REFTTEL DEALS WITH PROBLEMS RE ROKG PARTICIPATION IN UN PROJECTS INCLUDING LOWER THAN DESIRED LEVEL OF COUNTERPART CONTRIBUTIONS, INADEQUACY OF SOME PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO PROJECTS, AND FREQUENT CHANGES IN PERSONNEL.

7. SEE PARA 12, REF. B REGARDING PROJECT EVALUATION BY TRIPARTITE REVIEW SYSTEM. SYSTEM APPEARS TO FUNCTION SMOOTHLY AND OFFICIALS CLAIM THAT NO UNCLASSIFIED

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PROJECTS HAVE EVER BEEN TERMINATED PREMATURELY BECAUSE OF UNSATISFACTORY PROGRESS.
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8. REFER REF. R, PARA 19 FOR COMMENTS RE POST LIASON WITH UNDP. HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT SOME UN AGENCIES, PARTICULARLY UNICEF AND

WHO, CONSULT WITH POST REPRESENTATIVES RE PROPOSED PROJECTS ON A REGULAR BASIS AND OFTEN SEEK USAID ADVICE ON THESE PROJECTS.

9. THE INDICATIVE PLANNING FIGURE IS THE AMOUNT OF MONEY WHICH UNDP BUDGETS FOR ITS PROGRAM IN A PARTICULAR COUNTRY. THIS FIGURE HAS BEEN SET AT \$18.0 MILLION FOR THE PERIOD 1977-81 IN KOREA. THE FIGURE IS COMPARABLE TO THE FUNDING IN THE FIRST PLANNING CYCLE 1972-76; HOWEVER, IT REPRESENTS A 28PCT DECREASE IN THE IPF AS ANTICIPATED IN 1975. BUDGETARY RESTRAINTS WERE ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DRASTIC REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS FROM 55 TO 16 IN 1976. ACCORDING TO UNDP OFFICIALS, THIS CUTBACK HAS NOT ADVERSELY AFFECTED ANY ONGOING PROJECTS.

10. THERE ARE THIRTY-SIX PROJECTS PROGRAMED BY UNCLASSIFIED

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THE UNDP FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN THE 1977-81 PERIOD, SEVENTEEN OF WHICH ARE ONGOING, AND THE REMAINDER NEW PROJECTS. TWENTY-NINE OF THESE PROJECTS ARE CONCENTRATED IN PHYSICAL RESOURCES, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, AND INFRASTRUCTURE WHILE SEVEN PROJECTS DEAL WITH HUMAN RESOURCES. MOST OF THESE PROJECTS SUCH AS THE HOTEL AND CATERING TRAINING CENTER, THE FORESTRY TRAINING INSTITUTE, AND THE FISHERIES TRAINING CENTER, WHILE IMPROVING EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS FOR SOME INDIVIDUALS, APPEAR TO BENEFIT A RATHER NARROW SEGMENT OF THE KOREAN WORKING CLASS. AN EXAMPLE IS THE FISHERIES TRAINING CENTER WHICH RECRUITS NOT FROM THE RELATIVELY NEEDY AND EXPERIENCED SEGMENT OF THE POPULATION WHICH EARNS ITS LIVING FROM FISHING, BUT FROM TOTALLY INEXPERIENCED COLLEGE GRADUATES WHO ARE TRAINED FOR INTERNATIONAL DEEP SEA FISHING. AS A RESULT OF THE FOREGOING, APPLICATION OF UNDP'S "NEW DIMENSIONS" IS NOT APPARENT IN COUNTRY PROGRAMMING.

11. SEE REF. B, PARA 9 FOR DISCUSSION OF ROLE OF UNDP RES REP VIS-A-VIS ROKG. WITH REGARD TO LEADERSHIP OF RES REP WITHIN UN SPHERE, IT APPEARS THAT ACTIVITIES OF SOME AGENCIES (I.E. UNICEF, WHO) ARE DETERMINED MORE BY LEADERSHIP OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES (SA) THEMSELVES RATHER THAN BY INFLUENCE OF RES REP. COINCIDENTALLY, THOSE SA DIRECTORS WHO EXHIBIT A DEGREE OF INDEPENDENCE FROM RES REP TEND TO CONSULT MORE WITH USAID ON PROJECTS OF MUTUAL

INTEREST.

12. FOR EXAMPLE, THE LOCAL REP. FOR UNICEF HAS
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SUCCEEDED IN REVERSING THE AGENCY PLANS TO
TERMINATE ASSISTANCE TO KOREA IN THE NEAR FUTURE
BY CONVINCING UNICEF HEADQUARTERS TO SUPPORT
INCREASED ASSISTANCE IN HEALTH AND SOCWAL WELFARE
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN KORREA FOR THE PERIOD
1978-81. THIS THRUST WILL BE DIRECTLY LINKED TO THE
AID-FINANCED HEALTH DEMONSTRATION LOAN, THE
PURPOSE OF WHICH IS TO DEVELOP LOW COST HEALTH
CARE SERVICES FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES. THUS
UNICEF/KOREA APPEARS TO HAVE DEVELOPED AN
APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES WHICH IS MORE
IN LINE WITH AID EMPHASIS ON THE "NEW DIRECTIONS".

13. THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION BUREAU (TCB) OF THE
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IS THE PRIMARY
COORDINATING AGENCY FOR EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE TO
KOREA. THEREFORE THE PRIMARY COUNTERPART OF
THE RES REP IS THE DIRECTOR OF TCB. PARA12, REF.
B, COMMENTS ON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RES. REP.
AND ROKG. TCB OFFICIALS STATE THAT THERE IS SOME
PROBLEM IN COORDINATION OF ASSISTANCE WITH UN
AGENCIES BECAUSE OTHER AGENCIES SUCH AS UNICEF AND
WHO TEND TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH CONCERNED MINIS-
TRIES RATHER THAN WITH MOST. THESE OFFICIALS
STRESS THAT THE FAULT LIES WITHIN TCB WHICH THEY
FEEL HAS NOT PRESSED ITS COORDINATING ROLE STRONGLY
ENOUGH.

14. PARA 16. REF. B. STATES THAT NO UNDP PROJECTS
IN KOREA ARE DESIGNED TO IMPACT PRIMARILY ON WOMEN.
OF COUSE THE UNFPA PROGRAM IS AN EXCEPTION IN THIS
REGARD ALTHOUGH ITS ACTIVITIES CAN SCARCELY BE
CONSIDERED AS INVOLVING WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT.
THERE ARE NO WOMEN IN UN DECISION MAKING ROLES
IN SEOUL NOR ARE THERE ANY FEMALE UN PERTS IN
KOREA.

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15. REQ. C, DATED OCT. 28, 1976, REMAINS A VALID
STATEMENT OF EFFORTS BY KOREA TO MOVE GRADUALLY

TO A CONTRIBUTOR STATUS IN THE AREA OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE. IN SHORT, KOREA RECONGNIZES VALUE OF SHARING ITS KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE IN DEVELOPMENT MATTERS ALTHOUGH IT DOES NOT PROJECT THAT THIS ASSISTANCE WILL APPROACH SIZEABLE PROPORTIONS ANY TIME BEFORE THE NEXT FIVE YEAR PLAN WHICH BEGINS IN 1982. CURRENT ROKG ASSISTANCE IS PRIMARILY IN THE FORM OF A SMALL TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM IN WHICH A LIMITED NUMBER OF EXPERTS IN VARIOUS FIELDS ARE SENT TO OTHER COUNTRIES PRIMARILY IN AFRICA. THE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ALSO INCLUDES A MODEST PARTICIPANT TRAINING PROGRAM IN WHICH PARTICIPANTS ARE BROUGHT ANNUALLY FROM THE LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO RECEIVE TRAINING IN FIELDS WHICH INCLUDE AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, INDUSTRY, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION. SNEIDER

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